

## PUBLIC SAFETY AND POLICE REFORM

Under Mayor McGinn's tenure, the City of Seattle successfully negotiated an agreement with the Department of Justice to address systemic issues in the Seattle Police Department that date back decades. While many reforms are still in process due to the structure of the Monitoring Agreement, significant progress has been made via Mayor McGinn's reform plan, **SPD 20/20: A Vision for the Future**. Public safety improved under his leadership as well; between 2009 and 2013 violent crimes and property crimes declined, and the overall crime rate is at the lowest level in decades.

Under Mayor McGinn's leadership, the City of Seattle:

- Implemented pilot **Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion** program (LEAD), which diverts non-violent drug offenders in Belltown to community-based treatment and support services rather than arrest. This program was funded to expand to all of downtown in the 2014 budget and is considered a national model for innovative policing.
- Established **Community Police Commission** to support the development of reforms, the establishment of police priorities, and mechanisms to promote community confidence in the Seattle Police Department.
- Launched the **Safe Communities Initiative** as part of [SPD: 20/20](#) with the goal of meaningfully engaging our community in reducing crime and creating the safest possible neighborhoods. Safe Communities brought together over 1,000 residents and officers in living rooms, cafes, barber shops and community centers across Seattle to develop a list of priorities to address community concerns.
- Increased funding for **Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative** to serve up to 1,500 young people with programs to give them an alternative path to violence. Also funded additional community center hours to support SYVPI programs.
- Expanded the **Career Bridge** program to help more low-income adults who have additional barriers, including immigrants and refugees with limited English and low levels of education to obtain the skills they need to get better jobs.
- Supported the **Living Room Conversations** program, designed to bring together local community members and police officers in a small group setting that promotes an open dialogue, allowing participants to address neighborhood issues directly with officers who work in the area.
- Negotiated court approved and enforceable agreements with the Department of Justice to address community concerns and build a stronger police force in Seattle.
- Brought together community stakeholders from the business and social services communities to address public safety and livability challenges faced by downtown as part of the **Center City Initiative** (CCI). Over the course of a year of meetings, the mayor's office was able to achieve consensus among historically divided communities, leading to a shared vision and coordinated lobbying of the state legislature and City Council. These meetings also led to greater coordination between police, City departments and external organizations like the Metropolitan Improvement District in supporting the needs of people in crisis on our downtown streets.
- Ordered the Seattle Police Department to discontinue preparations to employ unmanned aerial vehicle technology and return the "drones" to their manufacturer.
- As part of the **Seattle Nightlife Initiative**, the City:
  - Introduced requirements for police training for all security personnel in nightclubs.
  - Created a nuisance ordinance that allows police to issue a civil citation for disorderly behavior.

- Got 87% of problematic nightlife businesses back in good business compliance and five “bad actor” establishments shut down through the efforts of the code compliance team.
- Discouraged drinking and driving by creating a prepaid parking program, which allows nightlife patrons to leave their cars parked on city streets until 10:00 the next morning and increased awareness of taxi availability through designating more taxi-zones in parts of the city with concentrated nightlife destinations.
- Launched and completed reform plan **SPD 20/20: A Vision for the Future**, which contained significant changes to training, oversight and accountability. The following reform policies were enacted under 20/20, though some are awaiting approval by the Community Police Commission or Monitoring Team as of December 2013:
  - Modernized guidelines pertaining to **demonstration management** to focus on conflict avoidance.
  - Ensuring that copies of all traffic citations, warnings, civil infractions and “street checks” are available for review in searchable databases, to facilitate research into the underlying reasons for **racially disparate law enforcement outcomes**.
  - Re-emphasized the importance of the SPD’s participation in the Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) by assigning a full time program coordinator.
  - Implemented mandatory 40-hour **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)** training for all front line officers. CIT helps officers learn to de-escalate interactions with people in mental health crisis.
  - Created a new training program to educate recruits about the city they have been hired to protect and serve, to familiarize them with the array of resources available to address community concerns, and to equip them with enough information to be effective ambassadors for the Department and the City once they are deployed to serve the community.
  - Eliminated the \$25 fee to apply to be a Seattle Police Officer to make the testing and application process more accessible.
  - Created and funded a community outreach team to help SPD build trust and **recruit in underrepresented communities**.
  - Invested in **Predictive Policing software** to help make predictions about the places where crime is likely to occur, enabling SPD to deploy patrols where they are most needed, and helping the community to develop strategies to make places safer.
  - Implemented Listen and Explain with Equity and Dignity training for all members of SPD.
  - Modernized SPD’s communication with the public via innovative programs like **Tweets by Beat**, Get Your Bike Back and precinct-specific sites to help residents access timely information about safety in their neighborhoods.